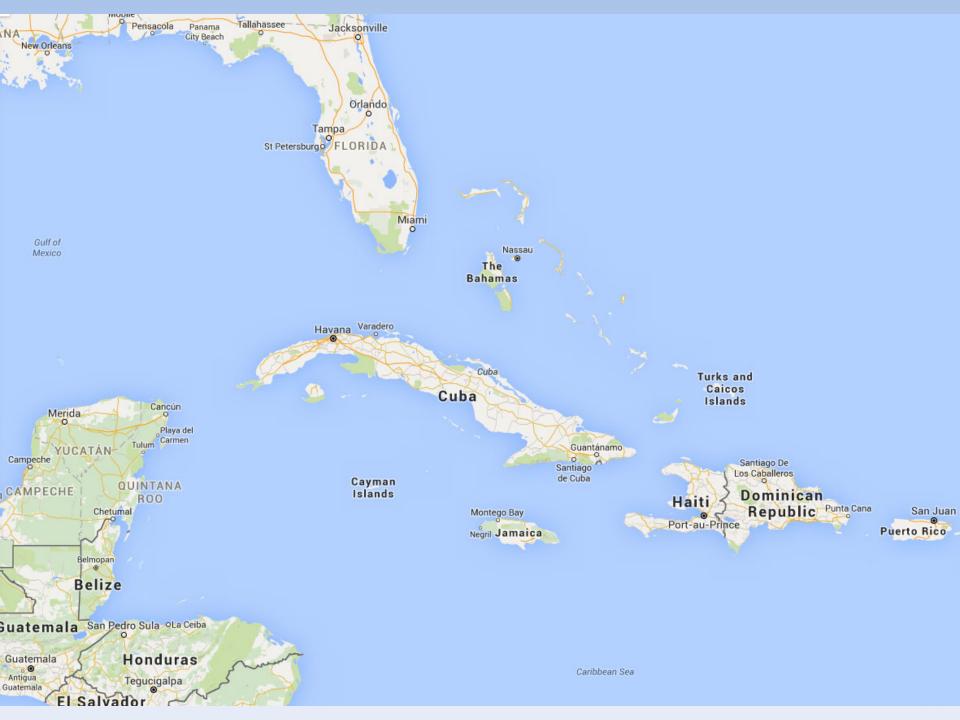


Insect Collecting in Cuba: recent experiences and outlook for the future

Robert Anderson, CMN



Some Statistics

Area 109,884 sq. km (104th)

Population 11,238,317 (106th)

GDP (per capita) \$6,985 (86th)

HDI (health) 0.815 (44th)

highest doctor/patient ratio in world

Currency Peso

CUC (convertible peso)

Provinces 16

Highest Point Pico Turquino (1,974m)

First Settlement Baracoa, 1511

Tourism

Canada (945,000/2010), UK, Italy, Spain

Cubans now second highest number of tourists





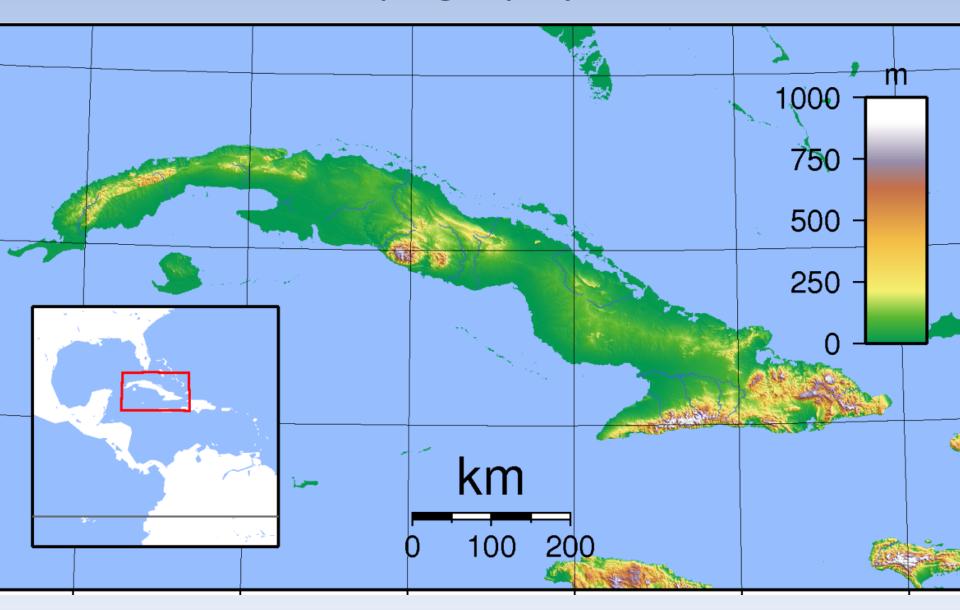




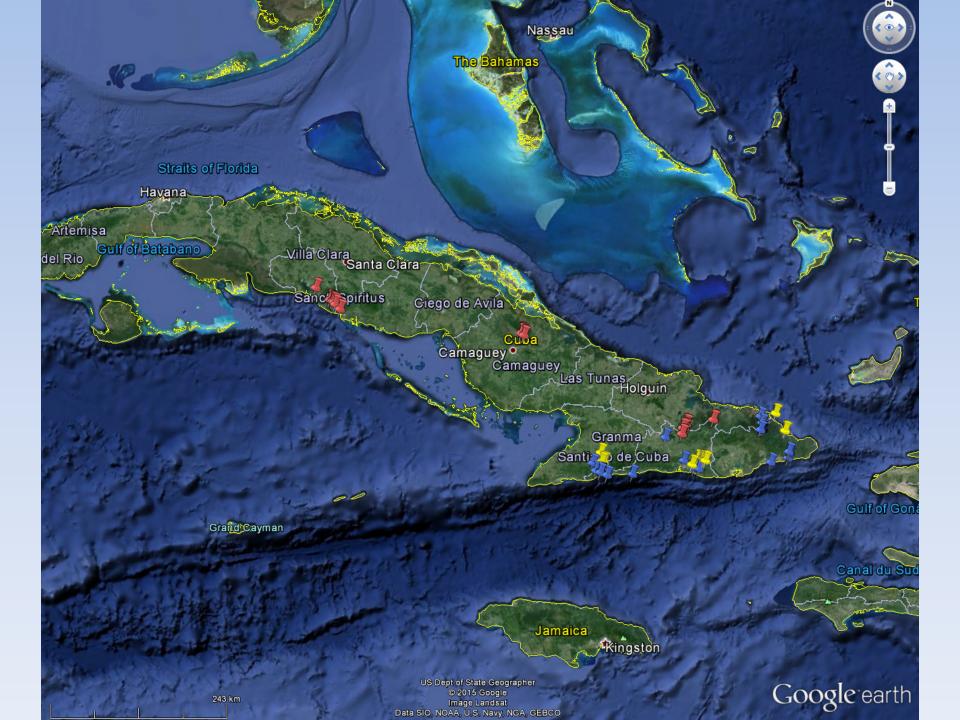




Topography

































Erik L. Ekman

Descubriendo el Turquino Discovering Turquino



"Cualquiera que se interese por la geografia de un país se preguntará inevitablemente: ¿Cuall es la montaña más altat. ¿Qué altura tienet. Recuerdo may bien que cuando muchacho me llenaba de envidia el becho de que Noruega, annque mat poquenta que mi querada patria, Suecia, tuviera montañas más altas."

Ekman

El naturalista sueco Erik Leonard Ekman marcado por la razón de su vida: la botánica; tuva cama reto, a menos de un año de llegar a Cuba, el ascenso al lurquino.

La marche la emprendió el 4 de obril de 1915 y la lucha para atrevesar la manigue de la Maestra y sus riscos fue arduo. Demoraran 13 dies en elicator su ablette y el 17 de obril e las 4:00 pm foe que conquistaran la cino

"Dotados ya del privilegio que se reservan los conquistadores de grandes elevaciones, de poder der nombre como los dioses, a les montrairas, denombrorom Pico Sencia e ledevación que se aita el este del Turquino y Pico Cubia o la que se erige al oeste." Así quederan boutilato como Redondo y las montrairas llamadas Gemelas los renombraron Pico Janquis y Pico Regino en hoses a los prácticos (Regino Verdecia y Josquin Rodrigosa) que se aventuarano con el en los difici floras.

Nadie podia imaginar que aquel hombre seria uno de los más grandos botanicos del siglo XX, descubridos y redescubridos de la Flora de las Antillas. "Anyone who takes interest on the geography of a country will unavoidably ask himself: Wish one is the highest mountain? What's its high? I remember very well that when I taus a child it filled me with envy the fact that Norway, although smaller than Sweden, my beloved country, had higher mountains."

Flore

The Swedish naturalist Erik Leonard Ekman marked by the reason of his life, Botany, had as a challenge, less than a year from his arrival to Cuba, the ascent to Tarquino peak.

is set out on April 4th, 1915 and the struggle to cross the forest of La Meestra and its 1291 was arduous. It took them 13 days to reach their aim and at 4 pm on April 17th they conquered Cuba's highest summit.

"Endowed already with the privilege reserved for the conquerors of great mountains, of naming the mountains like goods themselves, they named Sueria Peak the elevation that rises to the east of furquino, and Cube Peak to the one that rises to the west". Like that, Lome Redonde and the mountains talled livins were beptized; these lest were renemed Joaquin Peak and Regime Peak in hance of the local guides (Regimo Vardecia and Joaquin Rodriguez) who wentured with him into such elard tests.

No one could imagine that that man would be one of the greatest botanists of the 20th century, discoverer and re-discoverer of the West Indies flora.

Hotel de Bayate, lugar donde se nospedo Erik L. Ekmanprevio a su ascenso al Turquino.

Pico Turquino



















Collaborator(s). You will need to contact and work closely with a good and reliable contact person, ideally a fellow scientist sharing your taxonomic interest.

They will secure all required signatures for your permits and be your chaperone.

Work visa. It is possible to travel to Cuba as a tourist but this type of visa restricts where you can go in the country, where you can stay overnight, and your ability to freely use the peso (moneda nacional).

















veteran Henry Blanco w behind the plate and he on the bench. When as f there was anything with a minor injury), Arencibia

replied tersely: "Talk to Gibby."
Gibby — Blue Jays manager
John Gibbons — explained
that he simply wanted to hook
up Blanco with left-hander

Escobar was also out of the

starting lineup Monday, and Sean Rodriguez was at short,

Johnson, meanwhile, was in left field, making his 13th start of the season in the outfield. A notorious streaky

World wants to see it when you've got the two top guys going at it," Gibbons said of ERA, while Price is 1-3 with a 6.25 ERA.

- Mike Rutsey

Iright
WP— Hellickson, Wright, Balk— Oliver.
Umpires—Home, Mike Everitt, First, Marty Foster.
Jecond, Scott Barry, Third, Tim Welke.
T—3.3L Att. at St. Petersburg— 9,952.

BLUE JAYS CALENDAR Results and future games in May

STATISTICS



as Fausto Carmona, relies on his sinking two-seam.



Places to stay. Hotels are few and far between and frequently full. Casas particulares or private houses are common in big cities (but often very hard to find).

Campismos are campgrounds with small cabins that you can rent; some of these are for locals only and they are frequently full on weekends. These are nice as they are usually in a rural setting with local access to decent habitats. Surprisingly there are also many biological stations or houses operated by Flora y Fauna, the national wildlife agency, that you can arrange to use but only via your contact.































Guides. You will need a guide or chaperone everywhere you go in the field. This can be your colleague or a local person hired or provided for you at each locality. Always go with a guide, they know the habitats really well and you'll be more productive in the end.







Car rentals. Like hotels, car rentals can be hard to get as there are few cars and increasing demand. They are expensive (\$150 per day) and types of cars are limited and quality may not be the best.

Most Cuban roads are good and passable in a car but once off the main roads things get bad and good clearance is necessary. You may have to do a lot of walking.





Driving. Cuban law states that in an accident you are guilty until you are proven innocent and you will be required to remain nearby if you are in an accident.

Drive carefully and as the roads are filled with bikes and horse wagons, keep your eyes open ALL the time. Night driving is a nightmare as none of these vehicles, or the many people who walk the roads, have lights!



















Money. You'll have to get it all there. The CUC is basically on par with the US\$ and moneda nacional is about 1/10 that value. In some rural areas their economy is all moneda nacional so you will need to have some with you at all times. You'll be paying for everything, for everybody. Stock up in big cities.



Food. Depending on where you are, finding food can be a major issue. Even in larger cities it takes the better part of a day to get meat, veggies, canned items, rice, beans, etc. as these are often in different stores or markets. Imported items are few and expensive and local products are limited and some not up to the standards you may be used to. Restaurants are very few in small towns or rural areas. If you stay at a private house you can negotiate meals and these are often pretty good.











Paperwork and permits: I saved the worst for last. There is a lot but most or often all of it will be done by your collaborator.

Before your trip you need to submit a list of localities you plan to visit with dates. Your collaborator will do the necessary legwork which will likely include a trip to Havana to get the collecting and export permits.

The day before you get to a specific collecting site (or the day of) you need to go with your collaborator to the appropriate large city and get **in person** permission from the local military, local immigration authorities and the Flora y Fauna people. These are in different offices scattered throughout the city and a full day is usually necessary for this at each locality you visit.

Authorities do check you (and hand luggage) upon departure so make sure what you collected matches the permit exactly.

Miscellanea

We have found that people are very honest and you will feel very safe. All crimes are few. People are often intimidated by you but once they get to know you and what you're doing they are wonderfully friendly. The kids are the friendliest and least reserved.

Cubans are paid about \$20 per month salary so you will be expected to pay for ALL of their costs during the trip. Budget for this. Be prepared for the occasional unexpected visitor at dinner or for the drive to the next site and even if the car seats 4, be prepared to take 6. We tip guides and our collaborators, usually around \$20 for local guides, \$100 per collaborator.

Baseball is huge is Cuba so I take used gloves as gifts for kids. Other great gifts are deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. Forceps, headlamps, rechargeable batteries, etc.

Electricity, gasoline and bottled water are widely available, medical services terrific.













Future Outlook

Expected higher tourism, especially from United States; cultural and ecotourism will increase taking people away from beaches

Better logistics (hotels, restaurants, stores, car rentals, roads, etc.) will need to be developed

Permitting and reporting processes will need to be simplified

TEST

1. What is the common name of the national tree of Cuba?

PRIZE : Can of Cristal



TEST

2. Who is the person whose bust sits atop Pico Turquino?

PRIZE: Can of Buccanero

